Women and Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation (WISE) Diagnosis and Pathophysiology of Ischemic Heart Disease Workshop

October 2-4, 2002

Session 3

1. Topic and Author

Diagnosis of Acute Coronary Syndromes: REACT Study Experience Robert Goldberg & John Finnegan

2. Where we stand in 2002. Overview/rationale for inclusion of topic.

Women with CHD are at increased risk for morbidity and mortality after an acute coronary event. Reasons for this are incompletely understood but are related to possible gender differences in care seeking behavior, natural history of CHD, and treatment practices.

3. Current challenges and the most important issues for future research

To more systematically describe gender, and potentially more insightful, age and gender differences in symptom presentation, facilitators/obstacles to the seeking of medical care, morbidity and mortality after acute CHD, treatment practices and compliance, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs with regards to pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic approaches after the diagnosis of CHD.

4. Current challenges in the areas of communicating messages to health care community, patients and the public

For the health care community: recognizing gender commonalities and genuine gender differences in presentation; for patients (especially women), communicating an appropriate message of MI risk, symptoms, and rapid response actions; for the public, emphasizing CHD/CVD as primary cause of mortality/morbidity in women.

5. Translating new findings to improved diagnosis and treatment/saving lives.

Need for better training of healthcare community to raise suspected MI, MI risk in women higher on the diagnostic hierarchy.

6. References.

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